IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Kazumi NAITO

Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: January 14, 2002

For:

NIOBIUM POWDER, ITS SINTERED BODY, AND CAPACITOR COMPRISING THE SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

This is a Continuation-In-Part of PCT/JP00/04753 filed July 14, 2000, amended on July 23, 2001, and U.S. Application No. 09/636,638 filed August 11, 2000, which claims benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/148,265 filed August 11, 1999, with the disclosures of the above noted prior applications being all incorporated herein by reference.

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20037-3213

Telephone: (202) 293-7060 Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

BEK/amt

Date: January 14, 2002

Bruce E. Kramer

Registration No. 33,725